

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. CLAIM OBJECTION

Claim 1 stands objected to as being indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended to recite an object of comparison as suggested by the Examiner. The feature newly recited in claim 1 has been disclosed in FIG. 2 of the present application. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1 AND 2 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on a combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,640,652 (Kikuchi) and U.S. Patent No. 6,175,296 (Tokunaga). All pending claims are believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The present invention as recited in independent claim 1 is directed to providing a rotation angle detecting device. Independent claim 1 requires, *inter alia*, "a resistance formed by *serially connecting* a GMR device provided at a position *closer* to said point of origin than the other GMR device within said one block and a GMR device provided at a position *closer* to said point of origin than the other GMR device within said other block, and a resistance formed by *serially connecting* a GMR device provided at a position *farther* from said point of origin than the other GMR device within said one block and a GMR device provided at a position *farther* from said point of origin than the other GMR device within said other block, with said resistances *connected in parallel*."

According to one exemplary embodiment of the invention (as shown in FIG. 2), GMR devices G1 and G5 are serially connected (see, FIG. 3A). This serial connection of G1 and G5 corresponds to the claimed "resistance formed by *serially connecting* a GMR device provided at a position *closer* to said point of origin than the other GMR device within said one block and a GMR device provided at a position *closer* to said point of origin than the other GMR device within said other block." Additionally, GMR devices G2 and G6 are serially connected (see also, FIG. 3A). This serial connection of G2 and G6 corresponds to the claimed "resistance formed by *serially connecting* a GMR device provided at a position *farther* from said point of origin than the other GMR device within said one block and a GMR device provided at a position *farther* from said point of origin than the other GMR device within said other block." In summary, one aspect of the embodiments of the invention is serial connection of a closer device

and a closer device, and serial connection of a farther device and a farther device.

By contrast, according to Kikuchi's device, GMRs R1 and R4 are serially connected, and GMRs R2 and R3 are serially connected. In other words, Kikuchi merely shows serially connecting a GMR device provided at a position *closer* to the origin and a GMR device provided at a position *farther*. Note that the input terminal 8 in FIG. 5 of Kikuchi corresponds to the V terminal in FIG. 3A of the present application, the earth terminal 11 of Kikuchi corresponds to the ground. As such, the Kikuchi device cannot be said to teach or suggest the claimed serial connection of the selected GMR devices (i.e., a closer device and a closer device; and a farther device and a farther device) because Kikuchi uses serial connection of a closer device and a farther device, and vice versa. The cited references, either alone or in combination, do not provide any motivation or suggestion to deviate from Kikuchi's serial connection. Therefore, the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not render the claimed invention obvious.

In view of the foregoing, the invention defined in independent claim 1, and its dependent claim is believed to be patentable over the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-663-1100, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,
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